

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (withdrawn) A chromatic coloring agent for multicolor laser marking, which is for forming two or more markings having different color tones by irradiating two or more laser beams having different energy levels onto a molded article comprising said chromatic coloring agent, a black substance which is itself depleted or discolored by receiving a laser beam, and a polymer, being characterized in that said chromatic coloring agent has an exothermic peak in the range of 360° C or higher and 590°C or lower, as measured by differential thermal analysis.

2. (withdrawn) The chromatic coloring agent for multicolor laser marking according to claim 1, wherein said chromatic coloring agent comprises at least one type of backbone selected from the group consisting of a phthalocyanine backbone, a diketopyrrolopyrrole backbone, a dioxazine backbone, a quinacridone backbone, a quinophthalone backbone, a perylene backbone and a metal complex backbone.

3. (withdrawn) A composition for multicolor laser marking, which is for forming markings having two or more different color tones by irradiation of two or more laser beams having different energy levels, being characterized in comprising a chromatic coloring agent, a black substance which is itself depleted or discolored by receiving a laser beam, and a polymer; wherein content of said chromatic coloring agent is from 0.001 to 3 parts by mass with respect to 100 parts by mass of said polymer; and wherein content of said black substance is from 0.01 to 2 parts by mass with respect to 100 parts by mass of said polymer.

4. (withdrawn) The composition for multicolor laser marking according to claim 3, wherein said chromatic coloring agent has an exothermic peak in the range of 360° C or higher and 590° C or lower, as measured by differential thermal analysis.

5. (withdrawn) The composition for multicolor laser marking according to claim 4, wherein said chromatic coloring agent comprises at least one type of backbone selected from the group consisting of a phthalocyanine backbone, a diketopyrrolopyrrole backbone, a dioxazine backbone, a quinacridone backbone, a quinophthalone backbone, a perylene backbone and a metal complex backbone.

6. (withdrawn) The composition for multicolor laser marking according to claim 3, wherein said polymer comprises a rubber-reinforced thermoplastic resin composed of a rubber-reinforced copolymerized resin obtained by polymerizing a vinyl-based monomer containing a (meth)acrylic acid ester in the presence of a rubbery polymer; or of a mixture of said rubber-reinforced copolymerized resin and a (co)polymer of a vinyl-based monomer.

7. (withdrawn) The composition for multicolor laser marking according to claim 3, wherein said polymer comprises a thermoplastic polymer and a thermosetting polymer, and wherein content of said thermoplastic polymer is from 0.01 to 20 parts by mass with respect to 100 parts by mass of said thermoplastic polymer.

8. (withdrawn) The composition for multicolor laser marking according to claim 3, wherein said black substance is at least one type selected from the group consisting of carbon black, black titanium oxide and black iron oxide.

9. (withdrawn) The composition for multicolor laser marking according to claim 3, further comprising at least one type of functionality-imparting agent selected from the group consisting of a flame retardant, an antistatic agent, an antimicrobial agent, a filler and a metallic pigment, and wherein content of said flame retardant is from 1 to 30 parts by mass, content of said antistatic agent is from 0.5 to 10 parts by mass, content of said antimicrobial agent is from 0.01 to 10 parts by mass, content of said filler is from 1 to 30 parts by mass and content of said metallic pigment is from 0.1 to 10 parts by mass, with respect to 100 parts by mass of said polymer.

10. (withdrawn) A molded article being characterized in comprising said composition for multicolor laser marking according to claim 3.

11. (withdrawn) A molded article being characterized in comprising said composition for multicolor laser marking according to claim 6.

12. (withdrawn) A molded article being characterized in comprising said composition for multicolor laser marking according to claim 7.

13. (withdrawn) A molded article being characterized in comprising said composition for multicolor laser marking according to claim 9.

14. (currently amended) A laser marking method comprising:
irradiating a molded article comprising a composition for multicolor laser marking with two or more laser beams having different energy levels to form markings having two or more different color tones

wherein said composition for multicolor laser marking comprises 0.001 to 3 parts by mass of a chromatic coloring agent, 0.01 to 2 parts by mass of a black substance which is itself depleted or discolored by receiving a laser beam, and a polymer, parts by mass with respect to 100 parts by mass of said polymer;

wherein said polymer comprises a rubber-reinforced thermoplastic resin composed of a rubber-reinforced copolymerized resin obtained by polymerizing a vinyl-based monomer containing a (meth)acrylic acid ester in the presence of a rubbery polymer; or of a mixture of said rubber-reinforced copolymerized resin and a (co)polymer of a vinyl-based monomer

wherein said chromatic coloring agent comprises at least one type of backbone selected from the group consisting of a phthalocyanine backbone, a diketopyrrolopyrrole backbone, a dioxazine backbone, a quinacridone backbone, a quinophthalone backbone, a perylene backbone and a metal complex backbone and has an exothermic peak in the range of 360° C or higher and 590° C or lower, as measured by differential thermal analysis; and

wherein said two or more different color tones are comprised of plurality of colors that comprise white which is primarily an inherent color of said polymer or derived from foaming of said polymer and a chromatic color derived from said chromatic coloring agent.

15. (original) The laser marking method according to claim 14, wherein the difference between wavelength of low-energy laser beam and wavelength of high-energy laser beam is 100 nm or more.

16. (original) The laser marking method according to claim 15, wherein said wavelength of low-energy laser beam is 1,064 nm, and said wavelength of high-energy laser beam is 532 nm.

17. (withdrawn) A multicolor-marked molded article whereby two or more laser beams having different energy levels were irradiated onto the molded article according to claim 10 to form markings having two or more different color tones.

18. (withdrawn) The multicolor-marked molded article according to claim 17, wherein a plurality of colors that includes white and a chromatic color were developed by laser marking.

19. (withdrawn) The multicolor-marked molded article according to claim 18, wherein at least one place of the marked portion is foamed.

20 (previously presented) The laser marking method according to claim 14, wherein said two laser beams having two different energy levels are radiated in different position on said molded article.

21. (previously presented) The laser marking method according to claim 14, wherein said molded article comprises only one type of said chromatic coloring agent.

22. (previously presented) The laser marking method according to claim 14, wherein at least one place of said marked portion is foamed by irradiation.

23. (previously presented) The laser marking method according to claim 14, wherein said two or more different color tones are a plurality of colors that include white and a chromatic color and said white is derived from foaming of said polymer.

24. (previously presented) The laser marking method according to claim 14, wherein said molded article further comprises a white-based substance in an amount of 0.001 to 1 part by mass.